(b) and (c) To increase the forest cover, a massive programme of afforestation, Social & farm forestry under the 20 Point Programme is pursued vigorously with people's participation. During the Seventh Five Year period 8.8 million hectares were planted up against the target of 8.2 million hectares.

It is proposed to substantially expand the coverage of afforestation/ tree planting activities during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation.

Damage due to the leak of the oil tanker "Maersk Navigator"

185. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any spot assessment of damage on fish and marine life due to the oil leak from the oil tanker "Maersk Navigator" which met with an accident on January 21, 1993;

(b) if so, what has been its effect on the lives of tribals living on these Islands and a wide variety of fish and Marine life availablt in these areas; and

(c) what steps have been taken to control the leak and to ensure that the slick moved away from the Nicobar coast; the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The research vessel, 'Sagar Kanya', of the Department of Ocean Development with the scientists of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, on board, has undertaken marine surveys to collect samples at the area of the oil spill. A second cruise will be conducted to study the long term effect on marine life. An assessment of damage to marine and tribals life and environment in monetary term can be made only after detailed scientific analysis.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Coast Guard to tackle the oil spill and to minimise its effect on marine life in the region:—

(i) Continued monitoring of movement of damaged tanker and oil spill was undertaken using air and ship surveillance. The oil leakage from the tanker has already been plucked;

(ii) Combating the oil slick by aerial and ship spray of chemical dispersant;

(iii) The damaged tanker was ordered to be cleared of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone waters as early as possible;

(iv) Water samples were collected from affected area for analysis; and

(v) The operations lasted from 22nd January, 1993 to 6th February, 1993. A complete sweep of the area was carried out to ensure that all remnants of the oil slicks were effectively neutralised.

Climatic Changes

186. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of inter-governmental panel on climatic change (IPCC) and its discrepancies between developed and developing world;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to correct the IPCC report after Post-Rio Summit; and

(c) the details thereof and on the issue of sharing the burden of cost of reducing CO2 emission?